

**From:** Robert Pyke [mailto:bobpyke@attglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 5:27 PM  
**To:** Isenberg, Phil@DeltaCouncil  
**Subject:** response to comments that you made on Friday morning

Phil,

I was perplexed by your linking during the DSC meeting on Friday my Western Delta Intakes Concept (detailed in a companion e-mail to Pat Johnston) to people who think they are the center of their own universe, their own omphalos if you will. Maybe you meant the center of the universe? In either case I don't think that this is an accurate characterization of either my thought process or the thought processes of the now wide range of people have now said that they think this concept has some and possibly great merit. That includes State and federal water contractors, Delta interests and environment NGOs. Much wider support than you have for the Delta Plan or its EIR! It turns out that one of the keys to first getting an audience and then winning support is to agree that your long-held belief that the people of this State will never work together to solve common problems, is not only not correct but is insulting to many people. I have bonded with people who you characterize as never being willing to change or agree by remarking that no-one is more fixed in their views and unwilling to change than you are. You should be encouraging innovative thinking to solve the problems of the Delta and California, rather than disparaging any new thinking as coming out of someone's navel!

Less important, but on another point, you were wondering who has suggested restoring Franks Tract as part of addressing the co-equal goals. Others may also have done this, but I believe that I made this suggestion in my very lengthy comments on the first draft of the Delta Plan. You said that you have now read all the comments and I am in awe of your patience and diligence! In those comments I think I may have suggested restoring Franks Tract as tidal or sub-tidal marsh. I would now word that differently as I would want to limit tidal marsh which introduces large amounts of organic carbon upstream of my beloved Sherman Island Forebay! But restoration of Franks Tract in some form as the ninth of the eight western islands is important to establishing a bulwark against salt water intrusion especially in view of the possibility of more rapid sea level rise. While not a big deal, Dan Ray was incorrect when he said that the open water provided by the flooding of Franks Tract has had positive benefits. At least according to the UC Davis group, the shallow waters of Franks Tract are lousy with Brazilian water weed and invasive species and do not have the more positive ecosystem benefits that the flooding of the smaller and deeper Mildred Island has had. Suddeth et al. actually concluded that there was so much uncertainty about the ecosystem impacts of flooded islands that one or more islands should be deliberately flooded in order to serve as a sand box for academic study!

Regards,  
Bob

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